CHAPTER 42-1

THE SUMMER HIKARU DIED

MOKUMOKUREN

GAME KIDS
IT ALL STARTED WITH THOSE SLIDING DOORS.

THE SUMMER
HIKARU
DIED
MOKUMOKUREN

CHAPTER 42

THE SUMMER HIKARU DIED

AND FROM THAT DAY ON, MY WORLD WAS FILLED WITH DARKNESS.

SO... I'M THINKIN' WE OUGHTTA MOVE.
IF WE LOOK DEEPER INTO THE PREFECTURE, THERE MIGHT BE A SCHOOL THAT'S A BETTER FIT FOR YOU...
AN' HANA SAID SHE DON'T MIND GOIN' TO A NEW SCHOOL...

IF I GO OUTSIDE, IMPURITIES'LL DEFINITELY COME SWARMIN' TO ME...
AN' SINCE I CAN'T SEE NOTHIN', I CAN'T TELL WHO'S HUMAN AN' WHO'S AN IMPURITY.
AIN'T GOT POWERS LIKE YOU EITHER.
THAT AIN'T GONNA WORK.
THERE'S NO ONE TO PROTECT YA IF I AIN'T AROUND...
IT'S SCARY, HUH?
YEAH... YER RIGHT.
...
NOT BEIN' ABLE TO SEE, ATTRACTIN' IMPURITIES— IT'S ALL 'COS OF THAT, RIGHT?
...WHY'D DADDY MAKE ME A MAJIRIMONO?
HEY, MOMMA ...

WHY DIDN'T YOU GET RID OF DADDY'S IMPURITY...
...LIKE YOU DO WITH THE OTHERS ...?
I'M SORRY...
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T GIVE YOU A NORMAL LIFE IN THE HUMAN WORLD...
YOU ALWAYS GO TOO EASY ON FOLKS, MOMMA.
AND THAT KINDNESS... WILL INVITE EVEN GREATER MISFORTUNE.

WILL IORI BE ABLE TO SEE AGAIN?
YES.
THAT IS, IF HE ENROLLS IN OUR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION...
...AND EVENTUALLY COMES TO WORK FOR US.
THE DEVICES YOU SEE HERE HAVE BEEN SPECIALLY DEVELOPED FOR OUR STAFF...
...TO CANCEL OUT CURSES.
IF YOUR SON JOINS US, HE WON'T HAVE TO LIVE IN FEAR OF IMPURITIES ANYMORE.

MOMMA.
I DUNNO... SOMETHIN' DON'T FEEL RIGHT ABOUT HANDIN' IORI OVER TO A PLACE LIKE THIS...
IORI...
I'LL GO.
TELL HANA I SAID BYE.

THE BEST WAY TO HANDLE A CASE LIKE THIS IS TO—
ON THE SURFACE, IT LOOKED LIKE A "COMPANY"...
...BUT IN TRUTH, THE ORGANIZATION COULD REALLY BE BEST DESCRIBED AS AN "INSTITUTION."
IT BEGAN IN EUROPE IN THE 1500s AS A RELIGIOUS ORDER THAT WORSHIPPED THE ILLEGITIMATES.
AND THROUGH A WIDE VARIETY OF CONNECTIONS, IT'S GROWN INTO A MASSIVE ORGANIZATION WITH LOCATIONS AROUND THE WORLD.

THE COMPANY'S EMPLOYEES ARE TASKED WITH FINDING ILLEGITIMATES ...
...BY GOING AROUND INVESTIGATING IMPURITY HOTSPOTS.
UGH, WHAT A DUMP.
CAN'T BELIEVE I GOT A HOARDER'S PLACE FOR MY FIRST JOB. NO DOUBT IT'S CRAWLING WITH IMPURITIES...

TO BE CONTINUED...

THE SUMMER HIKARU DIED

MOKUMOKUREN

CHAPTER 42-1

TRANSLATION: AJANI OLOVE

LETTERING: ABIGAIL BLACKMAN

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CHAPTER 42-2

THE COMMUNICATOR

HIKARU

FIELD

WITH COMMUNICATION

THE SUMMER

HIKARU

DIED

THEN HOW IS SHE STILL ALIVE?

APPARENTLY THAT GIRL'S MOTHER LEFT OVER THREE MONTHS AGO AND HASN'T BEEN BACK SINCE.
NONE OF THE NEIGHBORS EVEN KNEW A KID WAS LIVING THERE.

I GUESS SHE'S BEIN' KEPT ALIVE BY AN IMPURITY.

SO WHAT'RE WE S'POSED TO DO ABOUT HER...?
UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, SHE'D BE LONG DEAD BY NOW...
SHE'S PROBABLY GOT A STRONG SIXTH SENSE, AN' SHE'S BEEN USIN' THE IMPURITY SHE ATTRACTED TO ***DELAY HER OWN DEATH.***

...SAVING THAT GIRL AIN'T IN OUR JOB DESCRIPTION.
ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT WE GET THE DATA WE CAME TO COLLECT.
CRUEL AS THAT MAY BE, THAT'S JUST THE KIND OF COMPANY WE'RE A PART OF.

ALSO, YOU SERIOUSLY GOTTA LEARN HOW TO SPEAK PROPERLY TO YOUR SENIORS, KID.
BUT, WELL, IF YOU CHOOSE TO HELP HER, I AIN'T GONNA STOP YOU.

BUT THAT'S OKAY. THIS MOMMY'S JUST AS NICE.
RIKO'S MOMMY'S BEEN GONE FOR A LOOONG TIME.

PACKAGE: HAMSTER FOOD

RIKO'S GOT HAMU-CHAN AND MOMMY, SO RIKO'S NOT LONELY.
AND YOU'VE BEEN VISITING RIKO TOO, MISTER.
A HAMSTER, HUH...?
RIKO CAN SEE ALL KINDS OF STUFF!
YOU CAN'T SEE THEM, MISTER?
...ARE YOU SEEING SOMETHING THERE?
I CAN'T SEE ANY OF THOSE THINGS.
THAT'S WHY... THEY SCARE ME.

PACKAGE: TRASH BAGS, ODOR RESISTANT / BOTTLE: NUTRITION / ONIGIRI: PLUM

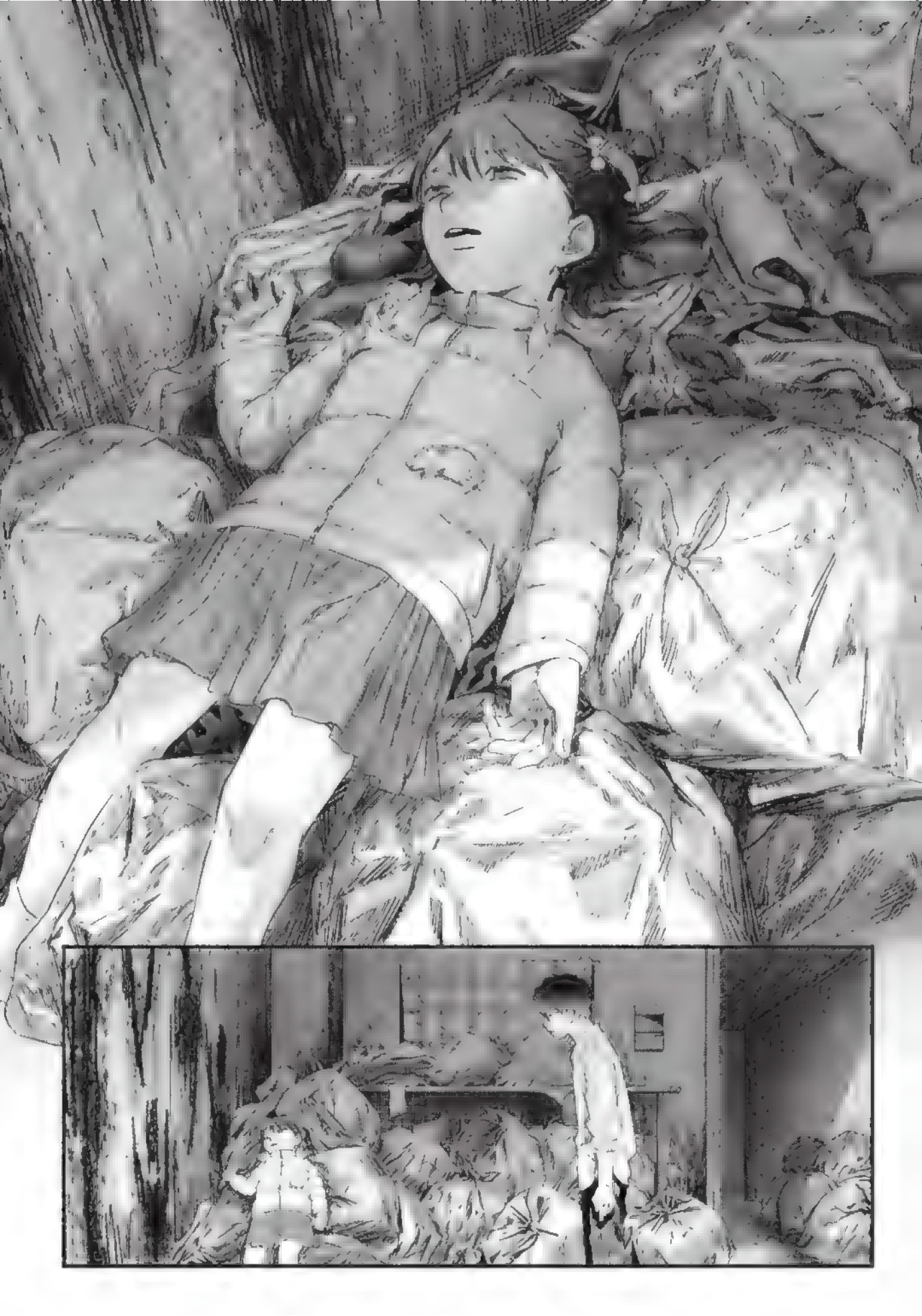
I TRIED EVERYTHING I COULD THINK OF TO HELP HER.

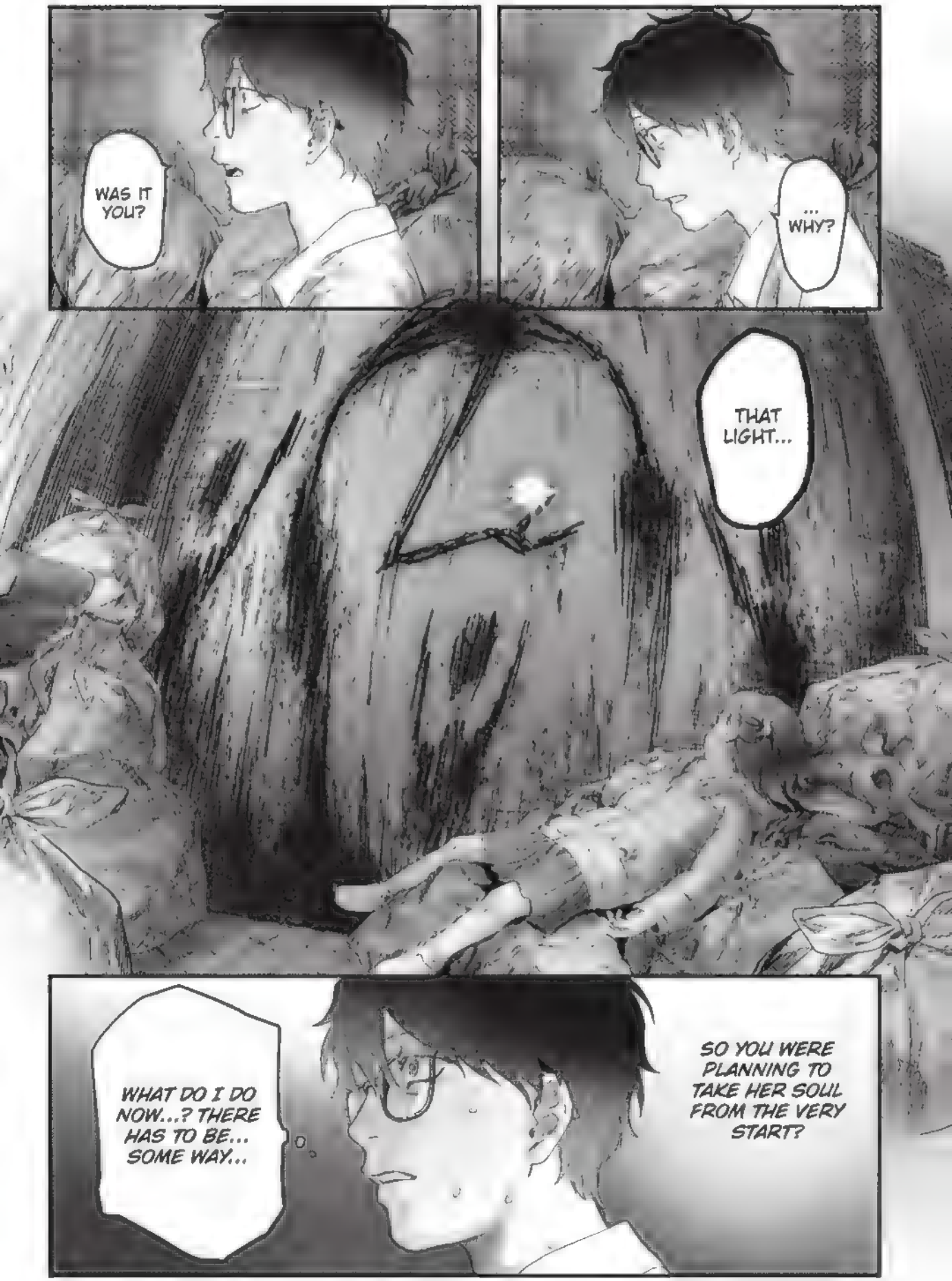
THE STAIN IS STARTING TO FADE...

WHEN RIKO LEAVES, RIKO WANTS TO VISIT ALL SORTSA PLACES!

YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO LEAVE SOON.

REALLY? YAY!




WAS IT YOU?
... WHY?
THAT LIGHT...
WHAT DO I DO NOW...? THERE HAS TO BE... SOME WAY...
SO YOU WERE PLANNING TO TAKE HER SOUL FROM THE VERY START?

TO BE CONTINUED...

THE SUMMER HIKARU DIED

Mokumokuren

Chapter 42-2

Translation: Ajani Oloye

Lettering: Abigail Blackman

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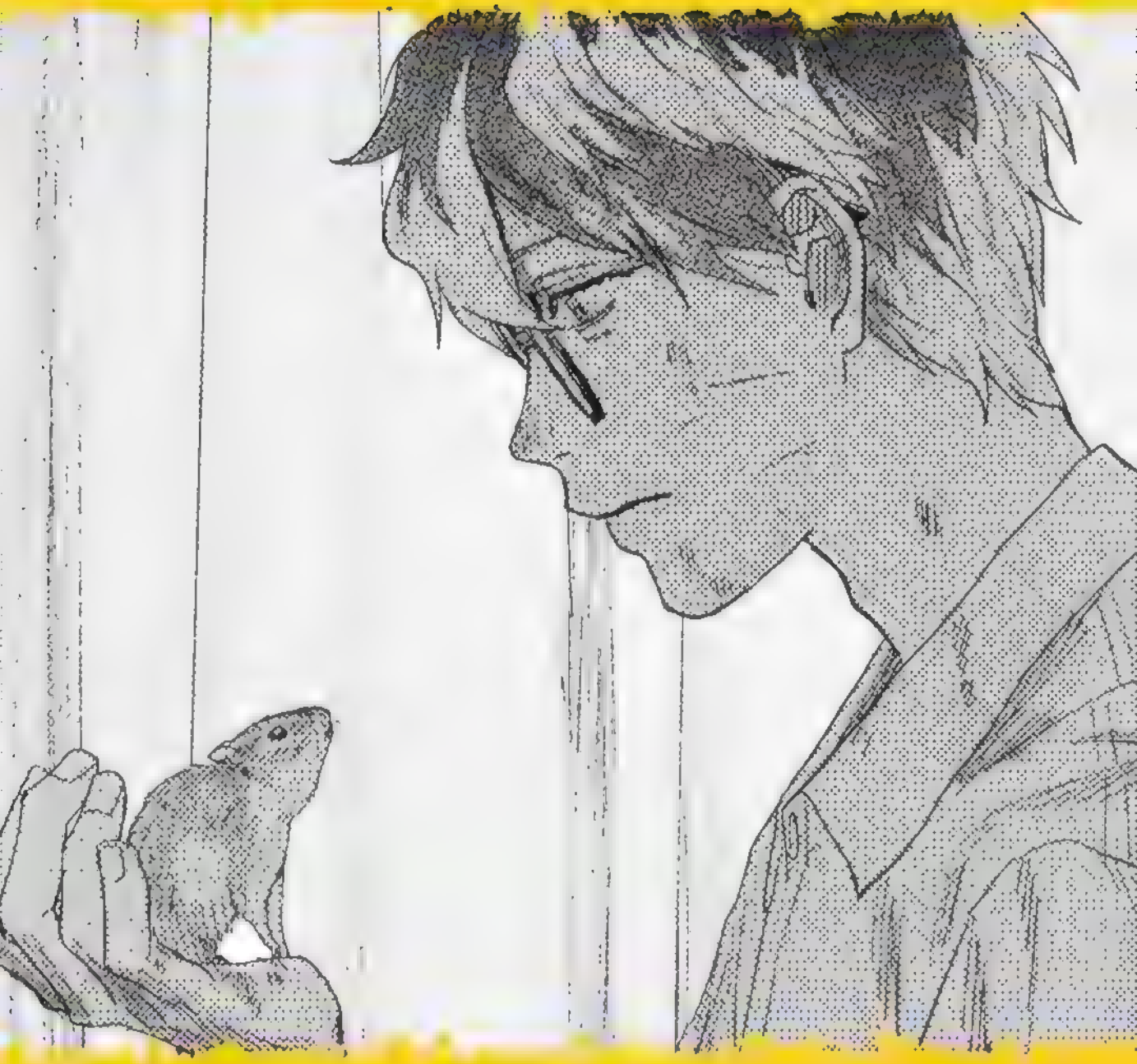
CHAPTER 42-3



HIKARU

...AND THE GIRL'S SOUL ENDED UP INSIDE THE DEAD BODY OF HER HAMSTER.
IN THE END, I OFFERED UP SOME OF MY HAIR...
I GUESS... I SHOULD JUST BLEACH ALL OF IT AT THIS POINT.

"AT THE VERY LEAST, I GOTTA SAVE HER SOUL"?
WHAT WAS EVEN THE POINT OF THAT?
...AM I STUPID OR WHAT?
SAME SOUL OR NOT, A HAMSTER'S STILL A HAMSTER.
IT DOESN'T MEAN SHE'S ALIVE.
IT'S LIKE SAYING THE REST OF HER AIN'T WORTH ANYTHING.
I MEAN, IT'S PLAIN DISRESPECTFUL OF ME TO THINK JUST HER SOUL WOULD BE ENOUGH.
THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED SOMETHING.
HAAH...

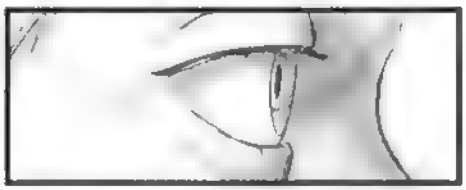
NO ONE— NOT MY MOM, NOT THIS COMPANY, AND NOT ME...
...CAN GET THOSE FROM THE OTHER SIDE TO DO WHAT YOU WANT THEM TO.
THOSE THINGS HAVE THEIR OWN LOGIC THEY'RE FOLLOWING.

I CAN'T GO ALONG WITH A COMPANY THAT THROWS ITS EMPLOYEES INTO POTENTIAL DANGER LIKE SACRIFICIAL PAWNS.
SO I FIGURE THE LEAST I CAN DO IS TAKE ON THE RISKS OF DEALING WITH IMPURITIES USING MY OWN BODY.
IF THIS COMPANY EVER GETS ITS HANDS ON AN ILLEGITIMATE...
...ABSOLUTELY NOTHING GOOD WILL COME OF IT...!

WHAT HAPPENED TO HIKARU? DID YOU HAND HIM OVER TO THE COMPANY?
MUSTA GOT THAT FROM YER DADDY.
YA SURE HAVE GROWN. YER A DANG GIANT NOW.
IF HE KEEPS MIXIN' LIKE HE IS...
YOU NOTICED, RIGHT? HOW TSUJINAKA-KUN'S GETTIN' MIXED?
IT WAS FOR THE BEST.

...HE'LL BE FORGOTTEN... RIGHT?

HANA... SHE FORGETS MORE AND MORE ABOUT YOU EVERY DAY.
YOU'RE HER BIG BROTHER, BUT IT'S LIKE YOU NEVER EXISTED TO HER.



THEY BECOME SOMETHING THAT'S IN BETWEEN THIS WORLD AND THE NEXT...
...AND EVENTUALLY THEY'RE FORGOTTEN BY ALL HUMANS WITHOUT A SIXTH SENSE.
THAT'S THE FATE OF SOMEONE WHO'S MIXED.
...THEY LOSE THE ABILITY TO LIVE IN THE HUMAN WORLD.

I SEE IT...!! IT'S THE DARUMAZUKA TUNNEL!
SKREE-
ASAKO... WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' HERE?
LOOK AT THIS...
WHAT D'YOU THINK IT IS?
YO-SHIKI!!
THEY'RE PIECES OF SOMETHIN'...
WAIT... IS THAT HIKARU'S WATCH...?
TO BE CONTINUED...

THE SUMMER HIKARU DIED

MOKUMOKUREN

CHAPTER 42-3

TRANSLATION: AJANI OLOYE

LETTERING: ABIGAIL BLACKMAN

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CHAPTER 43-1

THE SUMMER

HIKARU DIED

MOKUMOKUREN

WHAT HAPPENED...?
THEY'RE PIECES OF THE WATCH HIKARU ALWAYS WEARS...
WHY, THOUGH? WEREN'T HE AND KUREBAYASHI-SAN S'POSED TO BE HERE CLOSIN' THE HOLE?
THEN WHERE'S THE REAL HOLE...?
AIN'T EVEN ANY IMPURITIES AROUND...
YOSHIKI, I DON'T THINK THERE WAS EVER A HOLE HERE TO BEGIN WITH.

UM, EXCUSE ME...
HOLD ON A— DID YOU CUT YER HAIR!?
YOU USED TO DEFEND THOSE BANGS WITH YOUR LIFE, AND NOW THEY'RE—
AHH, YEAH...
FEELS LIKE I CAN SEE BETTER NOW...
ARE YOU TWO FROM AROUND HERE?
YEAH, WE ARE...
OH, THANK GOODNESS! I WAS HOPING I COULD ASK YOU FOR DIRECTIONS...
CLACK
CLACK-

THERE'S SOMETHIN' A LITTLE OFF ABOUT HER...!
OKAY, SURE...
WAIT
SORRY, BUT WE'RE KINDA IN A HURRY RIGHT NOW!
HUH?

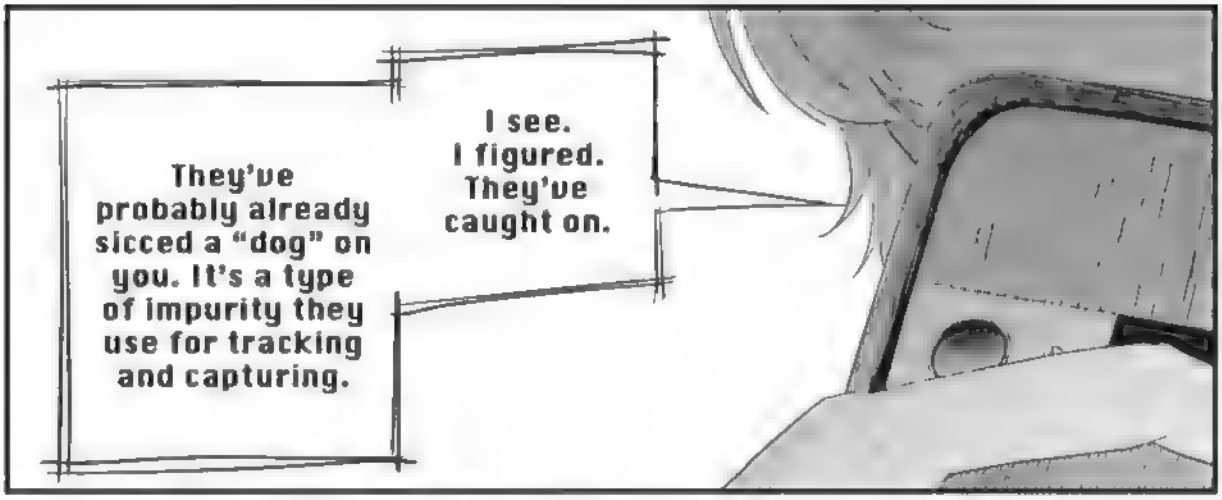
WHAT KEEN SENSES.
AHH, I SEE.
I'VE LOCATED THE OTHER HALF.
HEY, SATOU-SAN.
Under-stood.
OUR CLAIRVOYANTS FROM THE DETECTION TEAM PICKED UP TWO READINGS THAT COULD BE ILLEGITIMATES.
WE HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO PIN DOWN THE LOCATION BECAUSE ONE OF THE READINGS WAS COMING FROM A PERSON ACTIVELY ON THE MOVE WITH THE OTHER HALF IN THEIR POSSESSION.
GIVEN THE RELATIONSHIP CHART WE CONSTRUCTED, IT'S HIGHLY LIKELY THAT ONE OF THE TWO INDIVIDUALS I ENCOUNTERED HAS IT ON THEIR PERSON.

BIP
SEE IF YOU CAN CAPTURE THEM USING THE "DOG."
...SATOU-SAN, IS THAT THING REALLY ALIVE...?

THERE'S NO BLOOD, IS THERE?
WE'RE CURRENTLY STIMULATING HIS REGENERATION, SO HE'LL BE BACK TO NORMAL IN A FEW HOURS.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?
I'D LIKE YOU TO GATHER THE VILLAGERS AT THIS HOUSE BEFORE HE BEGINS TO MOVE AGAIN.
YOU OUGHT TO SHOW THEM THE UNDENIABLE PROOF.
HIKARU... I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S REALLY...!
.....
ALL RIGHT...

...I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL BAD FOR THE BOY...
EVEN IF I KNOW HE'S SOME KINDA MONSTER...
I'M SORRY.
...YO-SHIKI.
MAYBE I ONLY GET IT IN MY OWN WAY, BUT STILL...
I THINK I SORTA GET IT NOW— JUST HOW VALUABLE A "LIFE" CAN BE.
GUESS I GOT CHOPPED UP AGAIN. WHILE IN HIKARU'S BODY TOO...

SO IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I STAY HERE NOW...?
VRRR
VRR
HELLO?
MISTER?
You okay?
GEEZ ...
YER FAST...
YEAH, UH...I JUS' HAPPENED TO RUN INTO YOSHIKI...
...BUT THEN THIS WEIRD GIRL TRIED TALKIN' TO US AT THE TUNNEL...


I see. I figured. They've caught on.
They've probably already sicced a "dog" on you. It's a type of impurity they use for tracking and capturing.

You know where Kure-bayashi's house is, right?
UH, YES?
Tsuji-naka-kun.

They're after Hikaru's other half—the thing Tsujinaka-kun's carrying with him.
HUH?
WHYYY ...!?

You got this!!!
Throw that dog off your scent and get there however you can.

TO BE CONTINUED...

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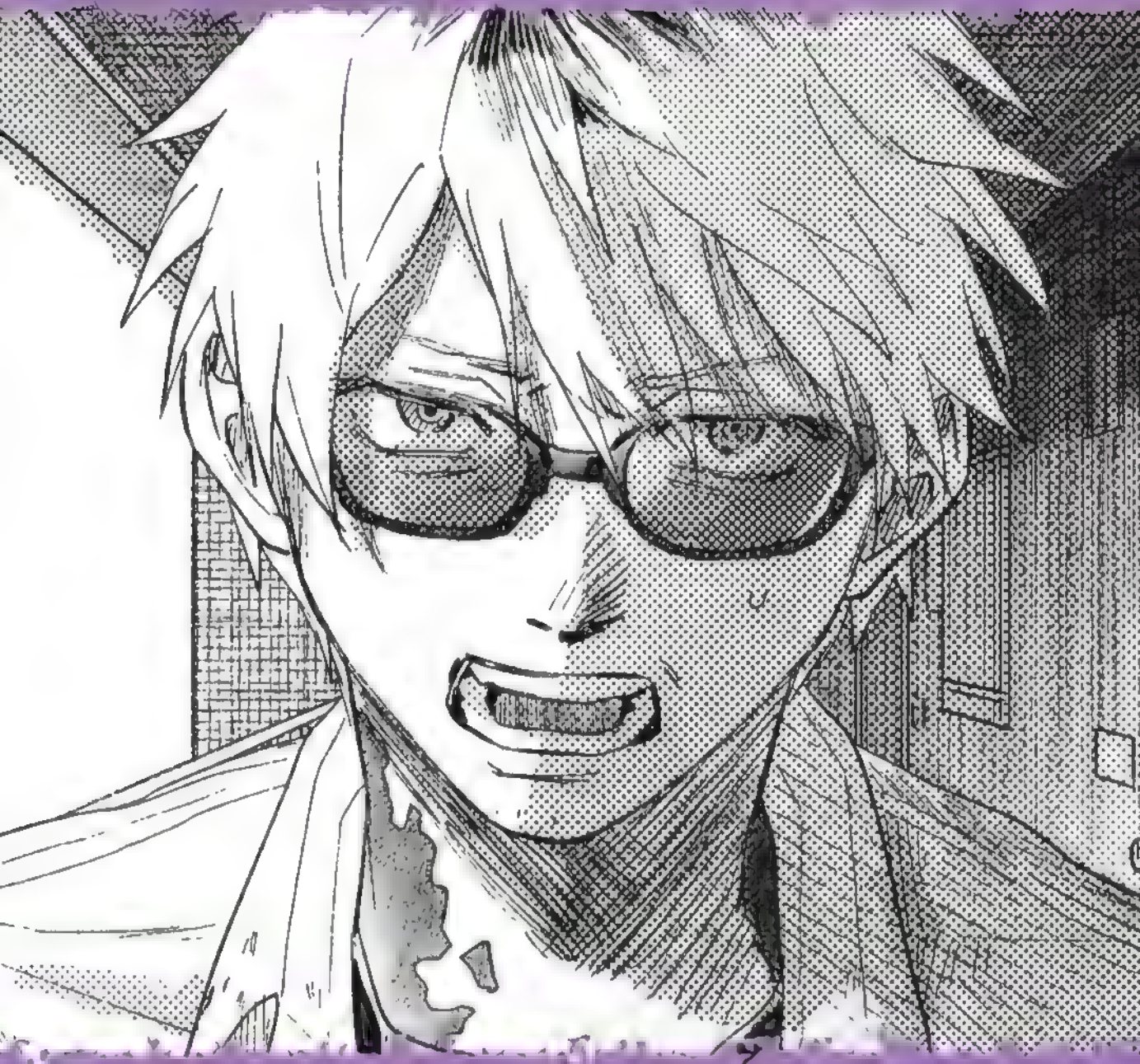
CHAPTER 43-2



THE SUMMER

HIKARU

DIED

MOKUMOKUREN

THE SUMMER HIKARU DIED

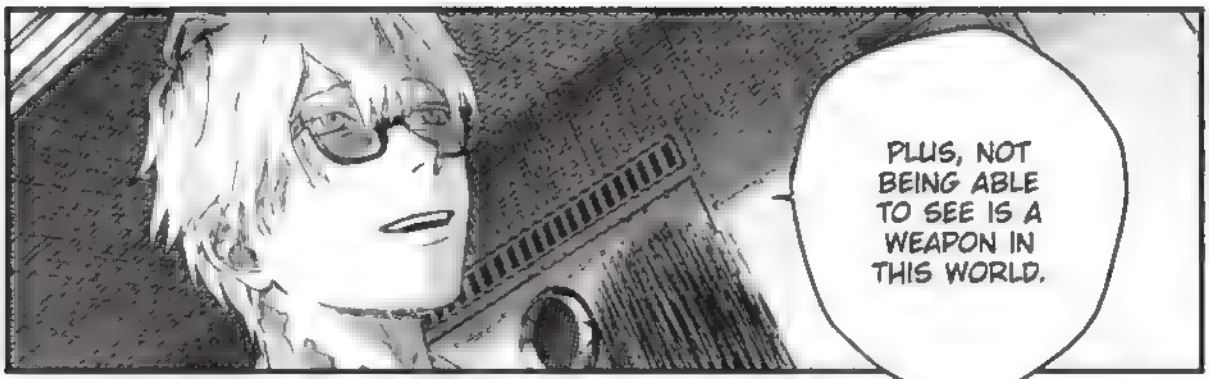
DID YOU REALLY BELIEVE THE COMPANY WOULD CLOSE THEM...?
DON'T WORRY.
I'LL CLOSE 'EM MYSELF.
...YOU'RE TOO NAIVE.
I...DON'T THINK FOR ONE SECOND THAT TSUJINAKA-KUN AND HIKARU-KUN CAN CLOSE THE HOLE AND MAKE IT BACK SAFELY.
ESPECIALLY TSUJINAKA-KUN. HE'S JUST SOME KID WHO GOT CAUGHT UP IN THIS MESS.
WATCHING A BOY LIKE HIM THROW AWAY A *NORMAL* LIFE AND WALK TOWARD HIS OWN RUIN...
...AIN'T SOMETHIN' I'M GONNA SIT BACK AND DO NOTHING ABOUT.
BZZH BZZH BZZH BZZ
シャワシャワシャワシャワシ

I'VE ALREADY ASKED SOME FOLKS I KNOW FOR HELP...
...BUT IF THAT'S HOW IT'S GONNA BE, THEN WE ADULTS AT LEAST OUGHTTA FIGHT BACK WITH ALL WE'VE GOT.
KIBOGAYAMA AND KUBITACHI ARE PROB'LY TOO FAR GONE TO AVOID BEIN' SWALLOWED UP BY THE HOLE...
THAT COMPANY IS ROTTEN TO ITS CORE! THEY'LL KILL THE FEW TO PROTECT THE MANY.
AND IF THEY GET THEIR HOOKS INTO HIKARU, IT'LL ONLY CAUSE MORE TRAGEDY!
...AND THAT'S WHY YOU HANDED HIKARU OVER TO THE COMPANY?
YOU'RE WAY TOO TRUSTING IN ALL THIS...
LOOK AT HOW MUCH YOU'VE SUFFERED 'COS I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO DRAW THAT LINE BEFORE...!!
I FEEL BAD FOR THE BOY, BUT HIKARU-KUN AIN'T HUMAN.
AND TSUJINAKA-KUN IS!

NOT JUST YER EYES— YER HAIR, YER ARM, EVEN YER INSIDES...
YER BUSTED UP ALL OVER NOW.
AND FOLKS'VE BEEN FORGETTIN' YA TOO...
IT'S ALL MY FAULT...

...I COULDN'T STOP THINKIN' ABOUT IT EVER SINCE I LET YA GO WITH THAT COMPANY.
MAYBE YOU COULDA HAD ONE...IF ONLY I WAS A NORMAL MOTHER...!
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T GIVE YOU A NORMAL LIFE...
AND I DON'T CARE IF YER SAYIN' THIS'LL BRING DISASTER...
...I WON'T LET THE SAME THING HAPPEN...TO TSUJINAKA-KUN...!!

...I'M NOT AS UNHAPPY AS YOU THINK.
...MOM.
AND I DON'T REGRET IT ONE BIT.
GOING TO THE COMPANY WAS MY CHOICE.
BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO BURDEN YOU ANYMORE.

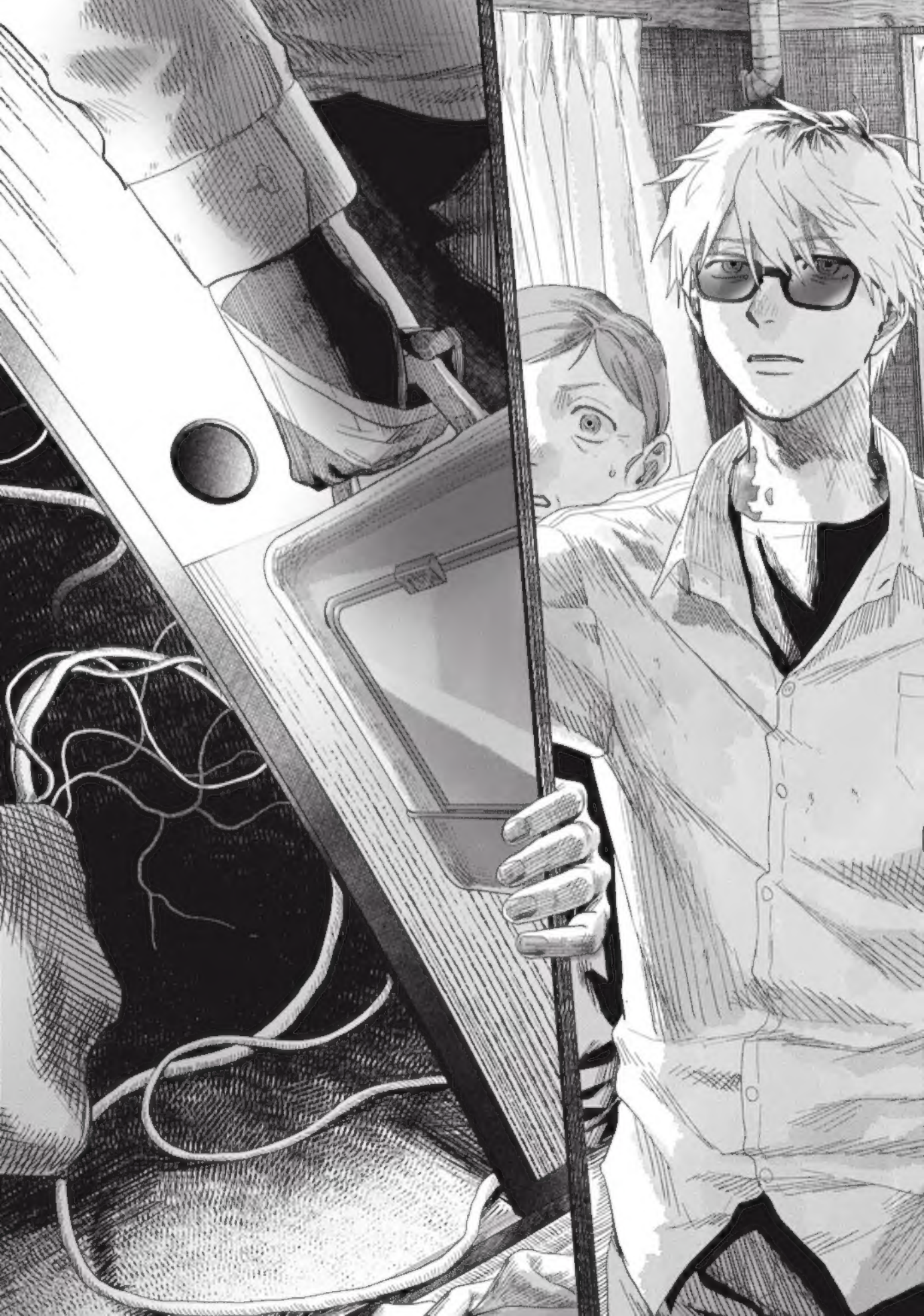

PLUS, NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE IS A WEAPON IN THIS WORLD.

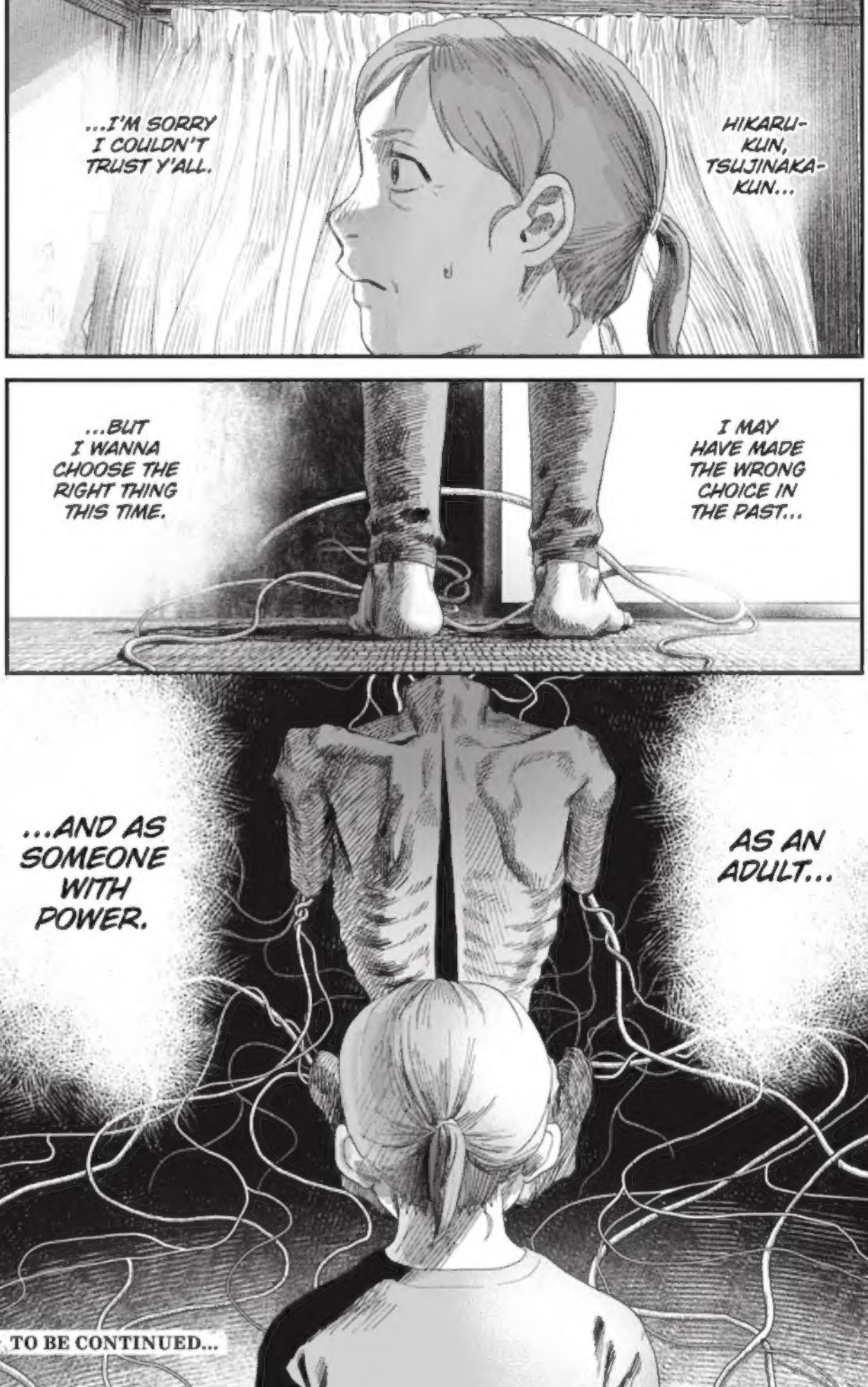
I REALLY DON'T HATE YOU FOR ALL THIS. IN FACT, I'M THANKFUL.
.....

TELL ME...
...WHAT THE HECK IS "NORMAL" ANYWAY?
I MEAN, HAVING A REGULAR LIFE AND LIVING LIKE REGULAR PEOPLE...
WHAT ABOUT ANY OF THAT GUARANTEES THAT YOU'RE HAPPY?

I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT "NORMAL."
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT MEANS, REALLY.
.....
...YEAH.
YER RIGHT...
IF THOSE TWO AIM TO CLOSE THE BIG HOLE...
...THEN I'M BETTING ON THEM.
BUT FIRST WE GOTTA CLOSE THE HOLE HERE.
...YEAH.
NO TIME FOR WALLOWIN', I RECKON.

505
KUREBAYASHI
THIS HOLE ONLY STARTED ACTIN' UP RECENTLY...
...SO NEITHER ME NOR HIKARU-KUN NOTICED IT BEFORE NOW.
THE COMPANY'S BEEN TEMPORARILY COVERIN' IT UP TO KEEP IMPURITIES FROM COMIN' OUT...
THE SOURCE OF THE HOLES ISN'T IN THIS WORLD.
YOU ONLY NOTICE THEM ONCE IMPURITIES START POURING OUT OR A HOLE GETS REALLY ACTIVE.
AND IT ISN'T REALLY THAT BURYING BONES IN A PARTICULAR PLACE TURNS THAT SPOT INTO A HOLE...
...IT'S MORE LIKE, PEOPLE BURIED BONES IN PLACES WHERE A HOLE COULD EASILY FORM, GETTING THEM TO OPEN UP.
AND SINCE THAT DIDN'T WORK OUT IN DARUMASUTE, IT POPPED OPEN SOMEWHERE UNEXPECTED...
RIP
RIP




...I'M SORRY I COULDN'T TRUST Y'ALL.
HIKARU-KUN, TSUJINAKA-KUN...
...BUT I WANNA CHOOSE THE RIGHT THING THIS TIME.
I MAY HAVE MADE THE WRONG CHOICE IN THE PAST...
...AND AS SOMEONE WITH POWER.
AS AN ADULT...
TO BE CONTINUED...

THE SUMMER
HIKARU DIED

MOKUMOKUREN

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TRANSLATION: AJANI OLOYE

LETTERING: ABIGAIL BLACKMAN

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